

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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/020 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9954

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1691

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS:

"HER MAJESTY'S A PRETTY NICE GIRL, BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE
A LOT TO SAY". BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE PRESS HAS HAD
MUCH TO SAY AND THE QUEEN'S VISIT OCCUPIED CONSIDERABLE
COPY AND PICTURE SPACE.

ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL, IDI AMIN'S ANTICS HAVE RUN AS A
CONSTANT THREAD THROUGH THE WEEK, BOTH HIS GRANDIOSE
POSTURINGS TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES AND HIS PRESENCE
AT THE ARAB-AFRICAN SUMMIT. AT THE LATTER, PRESS
REPORTS TREATED HIM AS MORE AN EMBARRASSMENT THAN
ANYTHING ELSE, BUT THERE IS GENUINE CONSTERNATION AS
TO HIS FUTURE BEHAVIOUR, ESPECIALLY AT THE NEXT
COMMONWEALTH MEETING.

PRESIDENT CARTER'S "PHONE-A-PRESIDENT" WAS WIDELY
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AND FAVORABLY REPORTED, AT LEAST AS A VERY EFFECTIVE
POLITICAL MOVE IF NOT MUCH MORE. WHILE THERE WAS
LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT, LOCAL COLUMNISTS GENERALLY
APPROVED OF THIS ATTEMPT TO KEEP IN CONTACT, BUT
SAID LITTLE ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE QUESTIONS.
ON THE ISSUE OF THE CURRENT STATE AND DIRECTION OF
US FOREIGN POLICY THERE APPEARS TO BE AMBIVALENCE

BROUGHT ABOUT NOT SO MUCH BY A QUESTIONING OF THE POLICY AS A MORE BASIC REACTION: "WHAT IS AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND WHO IS MAKING IT?" REPEATED EXPLANATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE FAILED TO ALLAY QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ONE SUCH ISSUE, IS OF CONCERN IN AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS WITH A REQUEST TO PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED BY 94 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONCERNING ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TIMOR. THE DEATHS OF SIX AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS HAS ADDED TO THE EMOTIONALISM OF THE ISSUE. AS AN ADDITIONAL FILLIP, AN AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVANT HAS BEEN INVITED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE FRASER COMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE ON THIS SUBJECT, IRONICALLY ON THE SAME DAY FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN HIS ROUND OF VISITS IN WASHINGTON.

PROGRAMMING:

THE UNDOUBTED HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK WAS THE OPENING OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER EXHIBIT IN MELBOURNE BY AMBASSADOR HARGROVE WITH HELP FROM THE LORD MAYOR, MOOMBA FESTIVAL KING MICKEY MOUSE AND A MOST ATTRACTIVE MOOMBA QUEEN. THE FORMAL OPENING WAS FOLLOWED ON MONDAY BY ONE CATERING TO OUR TARGET AUDIENCE WITH SOME 100 PRESENT. IN THE INTERIM, MORE THAN 5,000 PEOPLE WALKED THROUGH THE EXHIBIT WHICH CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "THE BEST EVER PRESENTED IN AUSTRALIA BY USIS". WHILE KUDOS ARE DESERVED ALL AROUND, THE KEY TO SUCCESS WAS JOHN VORHES OF ICS FOR HIS PRODUCTION EFFORTS, AND FOR HIS EXPERTISE IN THE SETUP. FOR A FEW DAYS PRIOR

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TO THE OPENING, IT APPEARED LIKE A CONVENTION OF USIS PERSONNEL FROM THE AREA WITH NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTED WITH TWO PEOPLE, AND BANGKOK, PORT MORESBY AND KUALA LUMPUR BY ONE EACH. ALL BENT THEIR BACKS TO THE TASK FOR WHICH WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF FOCUS-USA, OUR COUNTRY-WIDE ALERT SYSTEM FOR PRIMARY TARGET AUDIENCE MEMBERS WAS MAILED ON THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY MORNING BROUGHT A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIAL REQUESTS. LEADING WITH ARTICLES ON SEC. VANCE AND BRZENZSKI, BYLINERS BY ADM. TURNER AND COE CHRMN. SCHULTZE, THE TRANSITION '77 VTR AND A BOOK ON AMERICAN LABOR, THE INITIAL RESPONSE HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING AND CONTINUES.

TRANSITION '77 IS STILL A BEST SELLER IN THE USIS TARGET SEMINARS. SYDNEY IS USING IT ON A ONCE AND OCCASIONALLY TWICE A DAY BASIS. CANBERRA HAS HOSTED A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES, INCLUDING

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

CANBERRA'S "SANDWICH SEMINARS" CONTINUE TO BRING IN
SELECTED GROUPS FOR THE AMERICAN SERIES OF ALISTAIR
COOKE. WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO MOVE TO A LARGER ROOM
TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPANDED DEMAND.

A LOCALLY PRODUCED 16MM COLOR FILM BASED UPON THE
VISIT OF THE USS ENTERPRISE TO TASMANIA LATE LAST
YEAR WAS PREVIEWED AND IT TURNED OUT A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL
PRODUCTUION WITH CONSIDERABLE POSITIVE VALUE. WHILE DONE
FOR TOURIST PROMOTION IN TASMANIA, IT CLEARLY DEPICTS THE
OVERWHELMING APPROVAL OF NPW'S TO HOBART BY THE CITIZENS AND
GOVERNMENT. PROMINENTLY PLAYED WAS THE ACCOLADE "THE BIG E
FOR EXEMPLARY CONDUCT" WHICH IS THE MAIN THEME OF THE FILM.
A COPY HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO IMV FOR POSSIBLE ACQUISITION.
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